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**BOX ISSUE FEE  
PATENT****IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/551,641                      Group Art Unit: 2121  
Filing Date: August 14, 2006                      Examiner: Thomas H. Stevens  
Applicant: Hiroyuki GOTANI  
Title: SURGICAL OPERATION DEVICE  
Attorney Docket: 12480-000146/US

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Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

**COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINER'S  
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, provided with the Notice of Allowance dated May 8, 2009, Applicants submit the following comments.

The Examiner offers several reasons why the claims of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record and attempts to provide examples of portions of the specification which allegedly support the claims. Although Applicants agree that the various claimed limitations mentioned in the claims are not taught or suggested by the prior art taken either singly or in combination, Applicants do not necessarily agree with any of the Examiner's characterizations of what portions of the specification allegedly correspond to the claims. In any event, Applicants submit these comments in an effort to make clear that even if the specification sections listed did correspond to the claim limitations (which is not admitted), such specification portions would merely be examples of

support for the claim limitations and, as such, the claim limitations should not, in any way, be limited to such specification examples. Further, Applicants wish to emphasize that each claim should be limited solely by the limitations set forth therein and should not be limited, in any way, by Examiner's Statements regarding limitations not set forth therein. Finally, Applicants note that it is each claim, taken as a whole, including the interrelationships and interconnections between various claimed elements, which is allowable over the prior art of record.

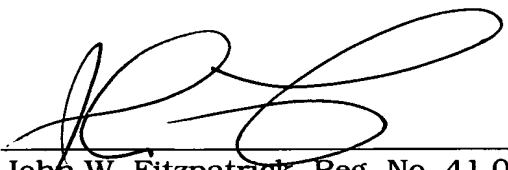
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick, Reg. No. 41,018 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

  
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DJD/JWF/kas